

HE THAT HATETH HIS BROTHER

1 John 2:7-11

Test of love.--social test

How person know that has relationship with God--discovers himself beginning to love those for whom Christ died.

Hatred and vindictive spirit replaced by desire to meet needs of others.

Boice: Does the one who professes to love God love others as well? If he does, he can be sure that he has been made alive by God. If he does not, John says, such a person has no mere right to consider himself a child of God than does the one who says that he knows God but disregards His commandments.

1 John 2:7 This truth interwoven throughout OT as well as the NT. Mk 12:28-31 6:5; Lev 19:18; Mark 12:30-31; Rom 13:8

Wiersbe: Loving God and loving one's neighbor were old, familiar responsibilities before Jesus ever came to earth.

1 John 2:8 Doctrinally, the command to love been around from beginning, but experientially, supernatural ability to love is new.

Darkness: age of law

True light: age of grace

New: new in character, in quality.

2 words describe difference: recent & fresh.

Commandment to love not necessarily new in time but new (fresh) in character. Radically different than OT.

In Him (demonstrated in and by Him)

Rom 5:8 ; John 3:16; Gal. 2:20; Rom 5:5; 1 Thess 4:9

Child of God hates what used to love and loves what used to hate

1 John 2:9 *Hateth his brother:* To not love. Have strong dislike or ill will toward another.

It is spiritually impossible for a Christian to be walking in the light and out of fellowship with another believer at the same time.

When Christian becomes offended

- No desire to pray with body.
- Begins to blame others.

Matt 5:21-26. When bring gift to altar and realize brother has ought against you, leave gift there and go and first be reconciled to brother, and then come and offer gift.

Don't wait for offended brother to come to you.

F.F.Bruce: ...the claim to live "in the light", to enjoy fellowship with the God of light, must be tested by a man's treatment of his brother.

1 John 2:10 *Loveth:* sacrificial, total giving without expecting anything in return.

Abideth: lives, walks in realm of

Light: totally, sincerely, absolutely walking within realm of God's Word

None occasion of stumbling in him: no cause for error or sin.

3 tragic things occur in the life of a believer who harbors hatred in his heart:

1. Loses ability to discern.
2. Becomes stumbling block to others.

Wiersbe: *Love makes us stepping-stones; hatred (or any of its "cousins," such as envy or malice) makes us stumbling blocks. ...*

3. Darkness progresses

1 John 2:11

Is in darkness and walketh in darkness... Keeps getting deeper and deeper.

Because that darkness hath blinded his eyes. An unforgiving spirit always breeds poison, but a loving spirit that sees and remembers the best always produce health.

So What?

1. Gain a clear conscience. Mt 5: 23-25
2. Forgive. Mt 6:12-14
3. Count the cost—love always implies sacrifice.

Boice: *... for it will be proof of the presence of the life of God to the individual Christian and to the watching world.*